

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08516 021732Z  
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 SSO-00 /012 W  
-----000657 021736Z /45  
O 021711Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 08516

USEEC

EUR/RPE FOR HOMME

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EP, OREP  
SUBJ: US CONGRESS/EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EXCHANGES

REF: MORRIS/HOMME TELECON 5/2/78  
1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED APRIL 27, 1978 TO  
SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN FROM AMBASSADOR HINTON:

DEAR SENATOR BIDEN:

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE AGAIN THIS YEAR INTRODUCED  
INTO THE SENATE LEGISLATION PROVIDING A STATUTORY BASIS  
FOR THE PRESENT PERIODIC CONFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S.  
CONGRESS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND PROVIDING, TOO,  
FOR BROADENING THOSE EXCHANGES. I STRONGLY FAVOR LEGISLA-  
TION DESIGNED TO GIVE THE EXCHANGES FURTHER PERMANENCE  
AND DEPTH.

AS YOU KNOW, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST  
TRADING BLOC AND (AFTER CANADA) THE UNITED STATES' MOST  
IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER. THE EC, THE EMBODIMENT OF  
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, HAS STEADILY BROADENED ITS INTERESTS  
TO EMBRACE A WIDE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FIELDS  
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OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE. CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE COM-  
MUNITY AND ITS MAJOR INSTITUTIONS ARE THEREFORE CENTRAL  
TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POLICIES.

AMONG EC INSTITUTIONS, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS ONE OF  
THE PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENTS FOR BRINGING ABOUT EUROPEAN

UNIFICATION AND FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC IDEALS IN EUROPE. WHILE THE PARLIAMENT HAS ALREADY PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EC AFFAIRS, I AM CONVINCED THAT ONCE IT IS DIRECTLY-ELECTED AND ENJOYS A MANDATE FROM A EUROPE-WIDE ELECTORATE, IT WILL ASSUME AN INCREASINGLY PROMINENT VOICE IN THE SHAPING OF POLICY, AS THE EUROPEANS MOVE TOWARD THEIR GOAL OF EVER GREATER COHESION. WITH THE ELECTORATE IN THE NINE COUNTRIES SCHEDULED TO GO TO THE POLLS IN THE SPRING OF 1979 FOR THE FIRST SUCH DIRECT ELECTIONS, NOW IS A PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNE TIME FOR CONGRESS TO REAFFIRM ITS SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS BY DECLARING FORMALLY ITS INTENTION TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH PARLIAMENT.

AS SUCCESSIVE PRESIDENTS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OTHER PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE FREQUENTLY TOLD ME, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ITSELF ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HAVING CLOSE TIES WITH THE CONGRESS AS A MEANS OF GAINING A CLEARER INSIGHT INTO THE REASONS FOR U.S. POLICY IN SPECIFIC AREAS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR EUROPE. MOREOVER, THESE PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY HOPE THE PRESENT EXCHANGES CAN BE PLACED ON A PERMANENT BASIS. DESPITE THE QUASI-INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE INTERCHANGE, THERE EXISTS AN UNDERCURRENT OF CONCERN ABOUT ITS CONTINUATION BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF MORE FORMAL CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION, I.E., BY CONGRESSIONAL STATUTE. MOREOVER, UNCLASSIFIED

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AS VALUABLE AS THEY CONSIDER THE PRESENT EXCHANGE TO BE, PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE ALSO OFTEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A CONGRESSIONAL STATUTE MIGHT ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSIONS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS. THE PARLIAMENTARIANS BELIEVE THIS IS A NECESSARY PRE-REQUISITE FOR THEIR COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FULL RANGE OF AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE OPINION ON SALIENT ISSUES. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, IT ALSO SEEMS TO ME TO BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN THIS INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT ERA TO GIVE LEGISLATORS FROM BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PERIODIC EXPOSURE TO INFORMED EUROPEAN OPINION ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND ITS PRESIDENT, EMILIO COLOMBO, ARE FOLLOWING WITH KEEN INTEREST PRESENT EFFORTS IN CONGRESS TO FORMALIZE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO BODIES AND HAVE LEFT ME IN NO DOUBT THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO SUCH ACTION.

I HOPE THE FOREGOING WILL BE HELPFUL TO YOU. IF I CAN

PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS OR OTHER TOPICS RELATING TO U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE EC, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.  
END TEXT.

2. LETTER TO SENATOR BIDEN WAS SENT VIA INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL TO EUR/RPE FOR TRANSMITTAL ON APRIL 28, 1978.  
HINTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CODELS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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